



**GRANT RECIPIENT**  
SAVE THE DUNES  
CONSERVATION FUND

**YEAR**  
2009

**COUNTY**  
LA PORTE

**CATEGORY**  
EDUCATION/OUTREACH

**GRANT AWARD**  
\$67,500

**LOCAL SHARE**  
\$67,500



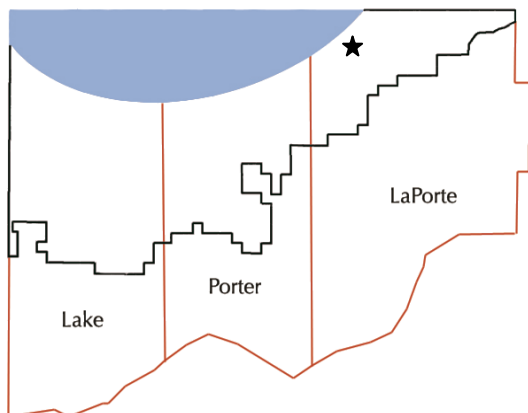
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## Natural Resource Management Vocational Training

Traditionally, lower level positions in Natural Resource Management (NRM) are laborious positions with an extraordinarily high rate of turnover. Consequentially, valuable resources are used every season to train new recruits in common NRM techniques. Because of the recent increase of indoor activities associated with our modern culture, fewer students are aware of the necessary skills and job opportunities associated with NRM and there is a need for trained field technicians to improve the efficiency of NRM activities and implement dozens of regionally and locally planned restoration projects.

The goals of this program have been to create a local green collar workforce and improve the efficiency of NRM project budgets. Students have learned NRM techniques through hands-on field training at various publicly and privately owned natural areas. In addition, students have also been tested on various principles of NRM through classroom training events and seminars. Students who participated in the program left with a low to moderate level of technical expertise in NRM. Ideally, the graduates will improve the efficiency of NRM activities in the area by increasing the skilled labor pool for restoration and reducing the need to funnel valuable budgetary dollars into training.



**RESULT:** Training students in necessary resource management skills to increase the skilled labor pool for restoration in the Lake Michigan coastal region.